

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 26 APRIL 2016.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), David Dodds, Stuart Borrowman, Tony Boyle, Harry Cartmill, Jim Dixon (substituting for Tom Conn), Carl John, Dave King, Sarah King, Danny Logue, John McGinty, Anne McMillan, Andrew Miller, Cathy Muldoon (substituting for George Paul), Frank Toner and Jim Walker; Appointed Representatives Elsie Aitken, John MacKinnon and Lynne McEwen; Parent Council Representative Eric Lumsden

Apologies – Councillors Tom Conn, Angela Moohan and George Paul; Appointed Representatives Myra Macpherson and Margaret Russell

Absent – Councillor Alexander Davidson

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

2. MINUTE

The Education Executive approved the minute of the meeting held on 1st March 2016 as being an accurate record. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. NATIONAL IMPROVEMENT HUB - SHARING GOOD PRACTICE AT WOODMUIR PRIMARY SCHOOL:-

The Education Executive noted a presentation by Nicola Hamilton, Head Teacher and P5-P7 pupils from Woodmuir Primary School providing details of the sharing of good practice at Woodmuir Primary School, which was showcased in Education Scotland's recently launched National Improvement Hub.

The Head Teacher advised that following a field study visit from Education Scotland, Woodmuir Primary School was invited to participate in providing video evidence of the work carried out in school which was shared on the National Improvement Hub on the Education Scotland website to support staff in primary schools across Scotland with the development of literacy, self and peer assessment and higher-order thinking skills.

Members of staff in school continued to develop their teaching methods. The children were also involved in planning and assessing their own learning and encouraged to interpret and evaluate text and then discuss their findings with each other. The pupils in attendance then provided members with details of the work carried out in school to plan and assess their learning. Various activities were also held to engage parents in their

children's learning which included curriculum evenings and an open door policy for parents to enable them to visit the school.

The Head Teacher and pupils then responded to questions from members of the Education Executive.

The Chair, on behalf of the Education Executive, thanked the Head Teacher and children for their presentation and acknowledged the excellent work carried out at Woodmuir Primary School which was being shared by staff in primary schools across the country.

Following the conclusion of the presentation the Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Development) providing details of the National Improvement Hub, Education Scotland's gateway to educational improvement resources and support. Launched in March 2016, it provides easy access to dynamic digital resources to help teachers improve their practice to increase the quality of learners' experiences and outcomes.

The Education Executive was asked to note the work done by the school in the following areas:

- Higher-order thinking skills and literacy; and
- Involving children in planning and assessing their own learning.

Decision

1. Noted the presentation and contents of the report; and
2. Acknowledged the excellent work carried out by staff and pupils in school which enabled them to participate in Education Scotland's recently launched National Improvement Hub.

4. MONITORING AND TRACKING ATTAINMENT OF PUPILS WITHIN EACH OF THE SIMD DECILES

The Education Executive noted a presentation by Elaine Cook, Depute Chief Executive, providing details of the progress made by pupils in each of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) deciles for the periods 2011/12 to 2014/15.

SIMD information was being used in a more explicit manner to monitor and track the progress of each pupil, which was being analysed to check on the progress being made to close the gap between those in Deciles 1 and 2 compared to those in Deciles 9 and 10 as well as for the lowest achieving 20% of pupils no matter what decile they were categorised in.

Information was provided on the results obtained by S5 and S6 pupils from each of the decile groupings compared to the virtual comparator for the period 2011/12 to 2014/15. Details of the progress made by school leavers into positive destinations, Higher Education and unemployed but seeking employment by SIMD profile were also provided which

highlighted the variations in destinations between decile groups.

It was reported that the number of young people leaving a West Lothian Council secondary school and entering into a positive destination was 93.4%, which was the highest figure ever obtained.

The Depute Chief Executive then responded to questions from the Education Executive.

Following the conclusion of the presentation the Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive which documented the progress made in raising attainment for pupils in the lowest SIMD deciles over the past four years in SQA and associated courses, as shown by the Scottish Government's tracking tool, INSIGHT.

The Education Executive was advised that a number of vocational courses at Level 6 and 7 were offered by West Lothian Council in partnership with West Lothian College. West Lothian was well advanced at implementing the Developing the Young Workforce policy which was having a positive impact on attainment and destinations post 16.

All secondary schools now monitor and track the progress of pupils within the Broad General Education (BGE). As part of this tracking information the SIMD Decile for each pupil was now visible to all teaching staff and Senior Management Teams and all schools were fully aware of the importance of closing the attainment gap of the lowest 20% by deprivation as well as the lowest 20% by attainment. Collaborative work would continue to ensure fit for purpose moderation of standards across the authority and information submitted by schools would be analysed by the Performance Team within Education Services to monitor and report on the attainment levels being attained by pupils within each SIMD Decile.

The Chair, on behalf of the Education Executive, acknowledged the work achieved to date and praised all staff involved for the excellent work carried out to reduce the attainment gap.

The Education Executive was asked to:

1. Note the progress made by pupils in each of the SIMD deciles over the past four years as measured by SQA at SCQF Level 6;
2. Note the importance of the suite of courses offered in partnership with West Lothian College, as part of Developing Scotland's Young Workforce (DYW);
3. Note the progress being made in the monitoring and tracking of pupils in the Broad General Education taking account of their SIMD decile;
4. Note that monitoring and tracking systems were now in place and being utilised within West Lothian Primary Schools which also measured progress taking account of individual pupil's SIMD decile; and

5. Note that the Performance Team within Education Services were now providing all primary schools with analysis of the Centre for Educational Management (CEM) test results for all pupils in P2-P7 which included analysis by SIMD decile for individual pupils and for all pupils within a decile group.

Decision

Noted the presentation and contents of the report.

5. NATIONAL IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Heads of Education providing details of the National Improvement Framework.

The report advised that the Scottish Government published an Interim Framework report of collated assessment data provided by most local authorities to provide a national picture of recorded attainment from early years to the end of the Broad General Education. Local authorities also provided information on their current practice for recording teacher judgements on pupils' achievement of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) levels in reading, writing and numeracy. Education Scotland provided guidance on assessing the level of achievement, details of which was attached at appendix 1 to the report. This reflected current practice in West Lothian schools in terms of collaborative approaches, moderation practices and sampling of evidence through the council's programme of validated self-evaluation.

The Head of Education (Quality Assurance) advised that Education Services gathered assessment data in all Primary stages and in Secondary 2 using on-line adaptive tests supplied by the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring's (CEM) Performance Indicators.

The Scottish Government would collect assessment data from schools following Education Services quality assurance with head teachers on the validity and accuracy of the data. Adaptive testing forms part of this quality assurance process and was recommended to remain in place for all primary stages and secondary year two for school year 2016/17. Education Services would continue to report on attainment and achievement based on CEM data to Education PDSP.

The Education Executive was asked to:

- Note the update and to receive further reports as more information becomes available; and
- Agree that schools continue to administer adaptive tests in school year 2016/17.

Decision

Approved the terms of the report.